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Extensions of country programmes in the Africa region - Addendum

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extensions of the UNFPA country programmes for Guinea-Bissau and Mali.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extensions of country programmes.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extensions for Guinea-Bissau and Mali, as indicated in table 1.

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Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Guinea-Bissau	2008-2012	2013	The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2013-2017, is aligned with the national poverty reduction programme, known as DENARP II, 2011-2015. Based on an assessment of the political situation arising from the coup d'état of 12 April 2012, the United Nations country team agreed to request an extension of the current programme cycle (2008-2012) for one year, through the end of 2013.	The political and institutional environment is currently fragile and unstable, making it difficult to begin implementation of a new country programme. Since the coup d'état of April 2012, the country has not yet re-established constitutional order. The United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Lusophone Countries, and other partners are engaged in negotiations to assist the country in reaching a political compromise. The United Nations has carried out assessments in the various sectors and is preparing an appropriate response in the event of a humanitarian crisis. UNFPA is already providing assistance in the health sector.	The one-year extension will address the following: (a) morbidity and mortality among women and newborns, through high-quality emergency obstetric and neonatal care services; (b) gender-based violence; and (c) HIV/AIDS propagation risks in war-affected areas. UNFPA will implement this assistance through regional and local health institutions in areas where non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations are functional. Development activities will resume as soon as a transitional government is established. The activities will be in accordance with the approved country programme, focusing on women and young people, and on addressing the negative effects of the current crisis.

Table 1. (continued)

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Mali	2008-2012	2013	The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2013-2017, is aligned with the national poverty reduction strategy paper, 2012-2017. Based on an assessment of the prevailing food crisis and the insecurity due to the conflict in northern Mali, the United Nations country team has redirected its existing programmes into humanitarian programmes. The United Nations country team has agreed to a one-year extension of the respective country programmes, through the end of 2013.	The political and institutional environment has been unstable since the February 2012 coup d'état. The three regions of North Mali (Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu) are occupied by rebel groups. Although there has been a return to a fragile constitutional order, thanks to mediation by the Economic Community of Western African States, the situation is volatile. There are 200,000 to 300,000 displaced persons. A transitional government is expected to try to end the war in the North and organize new presidential elections. Given the current situation, the United Nations will channel much of the available financial, human and material resources to humanitarian response activities.	The one-year extension of the country programme will seek to address: (a) morbidity and mortality among women and newborns, through high-quality emergency obstetric and neonatal care services; (b) gender-based violence; and (c) HIV/AIDS propagation risks in war-affected areas. Non-governmental organizations involved in the affected areas, as well as regional and local health institutions, will implement the assistance. Development activities in non-conflict areas will continue to strengthen technical capacity in the areas of reproductive health, gender equality, and population dynamics, with a focus on women and young people.

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